

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**CIVIL AIR PATROL NEVADA WING HEADQUARTERS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **EFFORTS TO LOCATE MISSING AIRCRAFT INTENSIFY**

**RENO, NV** — Searchers are entering a third day, intensifying efforts to locate a missing Piper Cherokee aircraft enroute from North Las Vegas to Montgomery Field just outside of San Diego. Aboard were the pilot, an active duty member of the United States Marine Corps, based at Miramar, accompanied by a civilian passenger identified as a school teacher from the San Diego area.

According to early reports, the two men had flown to Las Vegas for the weekend and were returning to San Diego on Monday afternoon. When the pilot failed to report for duty Tuesday morning, a search was officially initiated late Monday calling in the Nevada and California Wings of the Civil Air Patrol.

Early intelligence indicated the pilot had not filed a flight plan and there have not been any reports of signals from an ELT (Emergency Locator Transmitter) which all aircraft have on board. ELT signals can be picked up by orbiting satellites and enable search teams to hone in on a likely flight path or deviations from a flight path. There has not been any information from ground observers, other pilots or FAA Flight Following offices. Weather conditions on the day of flight was reported to be clear, with very light winds both in the Las Vegas area and along the entire presumed route of flight.

On both Tuesday and Wednesday, Nevada and California Wings of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) have been launching at least 10 sorties per day, following possible routes of flight and investigating any suspicious radar returns from archived FAA tapes. On Thursday, CAP aircrews will be dividing their efforts between additional route searches and small area searches referred to as "grid" searches. The Nevada Wing CAP is acting as the lead search agency operating out of both North Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada.

The missing men are aboard a PA-28 Piper Cherokee low wing, single engine aircraft described as white, with red and blue trim. The tail number is N9199Z. Anybody with information regarding the pilot and his plans, his passenger or the aircraft are encouraged to call the Nevada Wing Civil Air Patrol at 775.358.3700 or 702.647.2256 or local law enforcement.

Civil Air Patrol, the official Air Force Auxiliary, is a nonprofit organization with more than 64,000 members nationwide. Volunteers perform search and rescue, homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members take a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to the almost 27,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for more than 60 years.

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